

Texas Department of Agriculture
Texas Capital Fund
Main Street (MS) Development Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the purpose of the Main Street Development Program?

A: The Main Street Development program is intended to stimulate economic growth through the funding of public infrastructure improvements to aid in the elimination of slum and blight conditions in the historic downtown areas of rural communities identified by the Texas Historical Commission as a Main Street Community.

Q: How often can my community apply for grants for the Main Street Development Program?

A: Applications are taken once a year. The deadline for applications for 2010 is October 5.

Q: Can my city apply for more than one grant at a time?

A: No, each city may submit only one application per application round.

Q: Will there be workshops to assist the cities with administration of the awarded contract?

A: Yes, TDA will offer a grant administration workshop for the award cities.

Q: How long does reimbursement for construction expenses take?

A: If the contract is in compliance the average time for draw processing is approximately three weeks.

Q: What is the maximum amount of funds a city may receive?

A: \$150,000.

Q: What can the money be used for?

A: Public infrastructure improvements, acquisition of needed land, water & sewer facilities/lines, road/street construction/improvements, natural gas line construction/improvements, electric, telephone, & fiber optic line construction/improvements, traffic signals and signs drainage improvements, sidewalk construction/improvements, including ADA ramps and rails, lighting, public parking lot construction/improvements, other construction activities required to eliminate architectural barriers for the handicapped.

Q: Who is eligible?

A: The program is only available to “non-entitlement” city governments that are also designated as an official Texas Main Street City by the Texas Historical Commission. Non-entitlement cities do not receive direct funding from HUD and typically include cities with a population of less than 50,000. Awarded cities receive funds to make public infrastructure improvements in the designated Main Street business district. Projects must meet the national objective of aiding in the elimination of slum and/or blighted conditions identified by city resolution. The improvements must directly support the revitalization of the city's designated main street area. Contact TDA if you have any questions as to eligibility.

Q: Are funds available to pay someone to do the administration of the contract?

A: Yes, \$15,000 of grant funds may be used for administration purposes. These funds may be used to pay a city employee for time spent administering the contract, or it may be used to hire an outside administrator.

Q: May the funds be used to pay engineering for the project.

A: No, but the engineering may be part of the community match.

Q: Can the funds be used for projects on our commercial strip, which has a higher occupancy rate than our original commercial district?

A: No, the funds are to be used in the city's designated downtown area, which is typically the historic business area of the city.

Q: How long do we have to complete the project?

A: The contract period is two years from the execution date of the contract.

Q: How long after the application is submitted will the city receive a contract?

A: The four highest scoring applications will be processed for award. The average time from receipt of applications to a contract being sent to the city for signature is approximately 90 days.

For further information or assistance, please contact:

For more information, contact:

Texas Capital Fund

Chad Hinds

(512)936-0232

Chad.Hinds@TexasAgriculture.gov

<http://www.TexasAgriculture.gov>



COMMISSIONER TODD STAPLES